

ABRAHAM MAURER HOUSE
Route 664, approx. 1,400 feet east of
Jay Street Bridge
Lockport Vicinity
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5530

HABS
PA
18-LOKPTV,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HABS
PA
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ABRAHAM MAURER HOUSE

HABS No. PA- 5530

Location: Route 664, approximately 1,400 feet east of the Jay Street Bridge, ~~Lower~~
Lockport, ~~Lock Haven~~ Vicinity, Clinton County, Pennsylvania

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18. 295500. 4556975

**Present Owner
and Occupant:**

John E. Englert II
R.D. #2, Box 92
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Present Use:

Residence.

Significance:

The Abraham Maurer House is an example of the nineteenth-century vernacular canal-era housing of Lower Lockport. As a collection, the canal-era houses of Lower Lockport exhibit simple design and minimal ornamental detailing. They also share similar two-story, side-gabled massing and a uniform setback from the road. Specifically, the mid-nineteenth-century Abraham Maurer House displays these characteristics in a vernacular frame design, which is distinguished by elaborate scroll-work porch details.

Lower Lockport's development followed a local pattern of early nineteenth-century agricultural land use yielding to residential subdivision in the wake of the development of the West Branch of the Pennsylvania Canal in 1834 (see HAER No. PA-188). Lock No. 34 (see HAER No. PA-188-A) of the canal system was sited in Lower Lockport in 1834 and the canal remained in operation until 1889, at which time it was rendered useless by a damaging flood. The canal served as a major transportation route in the pre-railroad era. In conjunction with the canal, the lumber industry also played a major role in the development of Lower Lockport and was central to its economy. Lower Lockport served as the head market for the lumber rafting trade on the West Branch. Many of the extant dwellings in Lower Lockport housed merchants and skilled professionals--blacksmiths and carpenters--dependent upon the lumber trade. Other residents included relatively prosperous boatmen and laborers who worked on the canal. The original owner of the Maurer House, Abraham Maurer, worked as a laborer, and lived in the house until his death in 1888.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: Circa 1860.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description from the most recent deed: On the North by land now or lately owned by William B. Hanna; on the East by an alley; on the South by a public road; and on the West by lot of ground now or lately owned by Elizabeth Clymer. The lot hereby conveyed has a width in front on said public road of twenty-seven and one-half (27-1/2) feet, and extends in depth between parallel lines to land now or lately owned by the said William B. Hanna, the Northern boundary of the lot hereby conveyed.

References are to deeds filed at the Clinton County Recorder of Deeds, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

- 1863 Deed, June 10, 1863, recorded in Book N, Page 780.
Nathaniel Hanna to Abraham Maurer.
- 1888 Deed, March 23, 1888, recorded in Book 46, Page 45.
Lewis Hoover, Administrator of Maurer's estate, to John M. Williams.
- 1889 Deed, March 13, 1889, recorded in Book 44, Page 335.
John M. Williams to John Clymer.
- 1903 Deed, April 1, 1903, recorded in Book 63, Page 708.
John Clymer to Joseph H. Clymer.
- 1908 Deed, February 17, 1908, recorded in Book 79, Page 200.
Joseph H. Clymer to Lawrence J. Bauman.
- 1921 Deed, May 20, 1921, recorded in Book 101, Page 64.
Lawrence J. Bauman to Lowell Laye.
- 1937 Deed, August 28, 1937, recorded in Book 128, Page 118.
Lowell Laye to A. Golumbie.
- 1937 Deed, August 28, 1937, recorded in Book 128, Page 120.
A. Golumbie to Lowell Laye and Carolyn Laye Heckman.
- 1943 Deed, November 2, 1943, recorded in Book 136, Page 230.
Carolyn Laye Heckman to Lester and Marilla Englert.
- 1983 Deed, January 21, 1983, recorded in Book 283, Page 1083.
Marilla Englert to John E. Englert II.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.

5. Original plans and construction: No original plans for the Abraham Maurer House have been located. The two-story frame house was built circa 1860 and has four bays. The house has an "L" plan formed by a rear wing that extends the east wall. The interior has had numerous alterations as a result of flood damage.
6. Alterations and additions: A small, one-story frame addition was applied to the rear of the Abraham Maurer House in the late nineteenth century. Also, about the same time, the rear porch had a second story porch built onto it. The 1972 Flood caused extensive damage to the interior of the first floor of the Abraham Maurer House. Resultant renovations included the erection of new partition walls covered with contemporary wood paneling, and the removal of the staircase balustrade. Renovations also included applying acoustical tile to the ceiling and widening the passageway between the living room and the dining room.

B. Historical Context

The construction date of the Abraham Maurer House is unknown. In 1863, Abraham Maurer purchased the property; however, his name appears on an 1862 local atlas. Maurer may have been renting the property prior to his purchase. Prior to Abraham Maurer, the property, like all of the others in Lower Lockport, was originally owned by Nathaniel Hanna. Hanna was a prominent landowner in Woodward Township whose accomplishments included serving as a Clinton County Associate Judge and as one of the original commissioners of the Lock Haven Bridge Company. The land in Lower Lockport was part of his farm and was laid out as early as the 1830s. Maurer purchased 1/6 acre from Hanna. An 1874-75 city directory notes that Maurer was a "laborer," probably in association with the thriving lumber business. In 1875, Maurer divided his property and conveyed the western parcel to his son-in law, John M. Williams (see the HABS No. PA-5529). Maurer died in debt in 1888, and his estate was handled by the Orphans Court, who put his house up for bid. John M. Williams was the highest bidder at \$650, and he sold it the following year to John Clymer. Clymer resided in the Williams House and rented the Abraham Maurer House. The house continued to be rented for a number of years. In 1943, when the Englerts purchased the property, the existing garage was built. Additional information concerning later tenants and their occupations can be found in Vento et al.: 1989.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Two-story, four-bay, side-gabled, vernacular frame residence.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Abraham Maurer House is a two-story, four-bay, L-shaped building. The two sides that form the "L" are the front, or south, facade, which measures approximately 27'6", and the side, or east, facade, which

measures approximately 48'. A rear porch measures approximately 24' x 5'. The garage measures approximately 30' x 15'.

2. Foundations: Coursed granite foundation.
 3. Walls: Narrow-width clapboard siding.
 4. Structural systems, framing: Balloon frame construction, sheathed with clapboard siding.
 5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: Full-width front porch consists of a turned post balustrade, four turned posts and two pilasters with decorative brackets, and two newel posts framing the entrance. The porch has wood plank flooring and a finished ceiling, as well as a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. Exposed rafters are concealed by the gutter. The rear porch consists of two levels with a shed roof. The upper porch has a solid balustrade comprised of panels and the lower porch has beveled posts.
 6. Chimneys: Exterior corbelled brick chimney located on the east facade.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front facade doorway has architrave trim with a non-historic flush door.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The front facade consists of original wooden frames with six-over-one double-hung sash. Six-over-six double-hung sash are located on the rear wing of the "L."
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The "L" plan consists of an intersecting gable roof with asphalt shingles. Shed roofs with asphalt shingles are located on the two porches and the rear shed addition has asphalt-roll roofing.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The cornice is comprised of a two-part fascia with a friezeband.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans: See accompanying sketch plans.
 2. Stairways: The stairway has non-historic components, including wood-panelled walls and a metal handrail.
 3. Flooring: Standard-width hardwood flooring.
 4. Wall and ceiling finishes: For the most part, the walls have a non-historic wood panelling finish, and the ceilings have acoustical tiles. According to the current

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owner, the original wall finish consisted of plaster and lath. Plaster ceilings are evident in a few rooms on the second floor.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The first floor contains non-historic, replacement doors. The second floor contains original solid, four-panel and vertical-board doors.
- b. Windows: The windows are six-over-one and six-over-six double-hung sash. The window surrounds are simple and unadorned.

6. Decorative features and trim: As a result of the major interior renovations performed by the current owners, original decorative features have been removed.

7. Hardware: Original latches, hinges, and porcelain knobs are on the second floor vertical board doors. Window locks, mounted on the side of the lower sash, are on the front-facade, second-story windows.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The original heating system, which most likely consisted of a stove, is no longer extant. The present system is contemporary.
- b. Lighting: All original lighting fixtures have been removed from the house and replaced with non-historic fixtures.
- c. Plumbing: All original plumbing fixtures have been removed from the house and replaced with non-historic fixtures.

9. Original furnishings: As a result of interior renovations and numerous changes in ownership, original furnishings are no longer extant.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The Abraham Maurer House faces south on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Between the river and the Maurer House is Route 664. East of the Reader House is the Fortney House property (HABS No. PA- 5539) and west is the Williams House (HABS No. PA- 5529).
- 2. Historic landscape design: The Williams House's surrounding landscape has historically been a general residential landscape, consisting of a rear yard.
- 3. Outbuildings: According to the current owner, there was a frame garage on the property that was demolished sometime in the 1940s. The existing garage was built in 1943. It is constructed of unfinished wooden siding with a gable roof with asphalt roll roofing. The second floor overhangs the first floor in some sections and is supported by wooden piers. The outbuilding's condition is poor.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: None.
- B. Historic views: Floyd, J.W.C. Historic photograph PA-132, showing the dam in the Susquehanna River and Lockport on the far shore, circa 1900. The Floyd Collection is located at the Annie Halenbake Ross Library in Lock Haven.
- C. Interviews: Mr. John Englert, owner, October, 1991.
- D. Bibliography:

- 1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- Clinton County Legal Records.* Located at the Clinton County Courthouse, Lock Haven, PA.

- Dashiell, David A. III. *Englert House.* Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 035-WW-011. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, January, 1985.

- Hannegan, Susan. *General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86.* Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1986.

- Vento, Frank J., Philip T. Fitzgibbons, Scott D. Heberling, and James Herbstritt. *Phase I Inventory Investigations of Potentially Significant Prehistoric and Historic Period Cultural Resources for the Lock Haven Flood Protection Project, Clinton County, Pennsylvania.* Prepared for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Vendel Enviro-Industrial Consultants, 1989.

- 2. Secondary and published sources:

- Directory of Lock Haven, Bellefonte, and the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, 1874-1875.* Altoona, PA: Thomas H. Greevy and William H. Renner, 1874.

- Linn, John Blair. *History of Centre and Clinton Counties.* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1883.

- Richie and Stranahan. *Map of Lock Haven, Flemington, and Lockport.* Philadelphia: Richie and Stranahan, 1869.

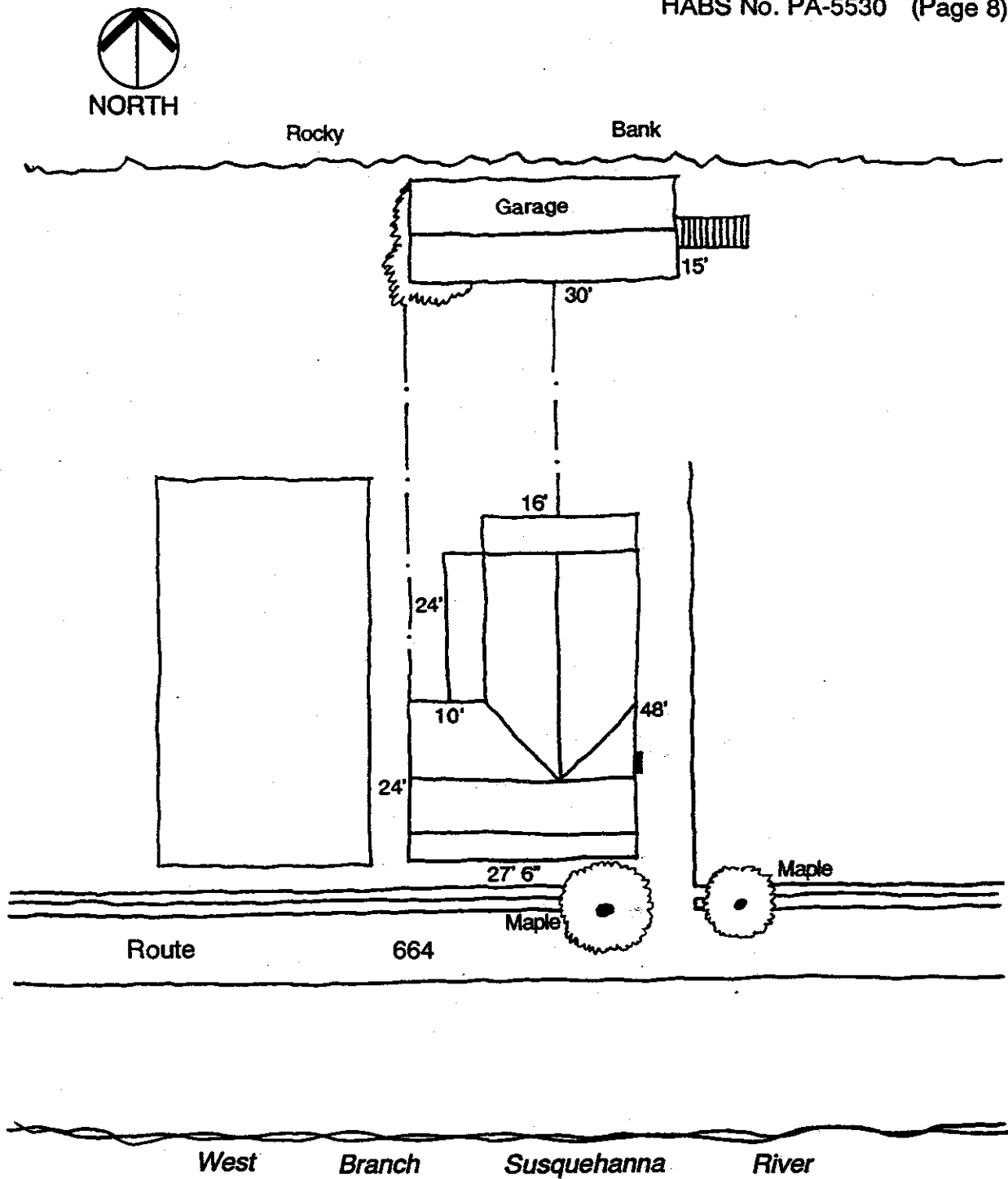
- Walling, H.F. *Map of Clinton County, PA.* New York: Way, Palmer, and Company, 1862.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation was undertaken in October and November 1991 in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the Lock Haven Area Flood Protection Authority. The documentation serves

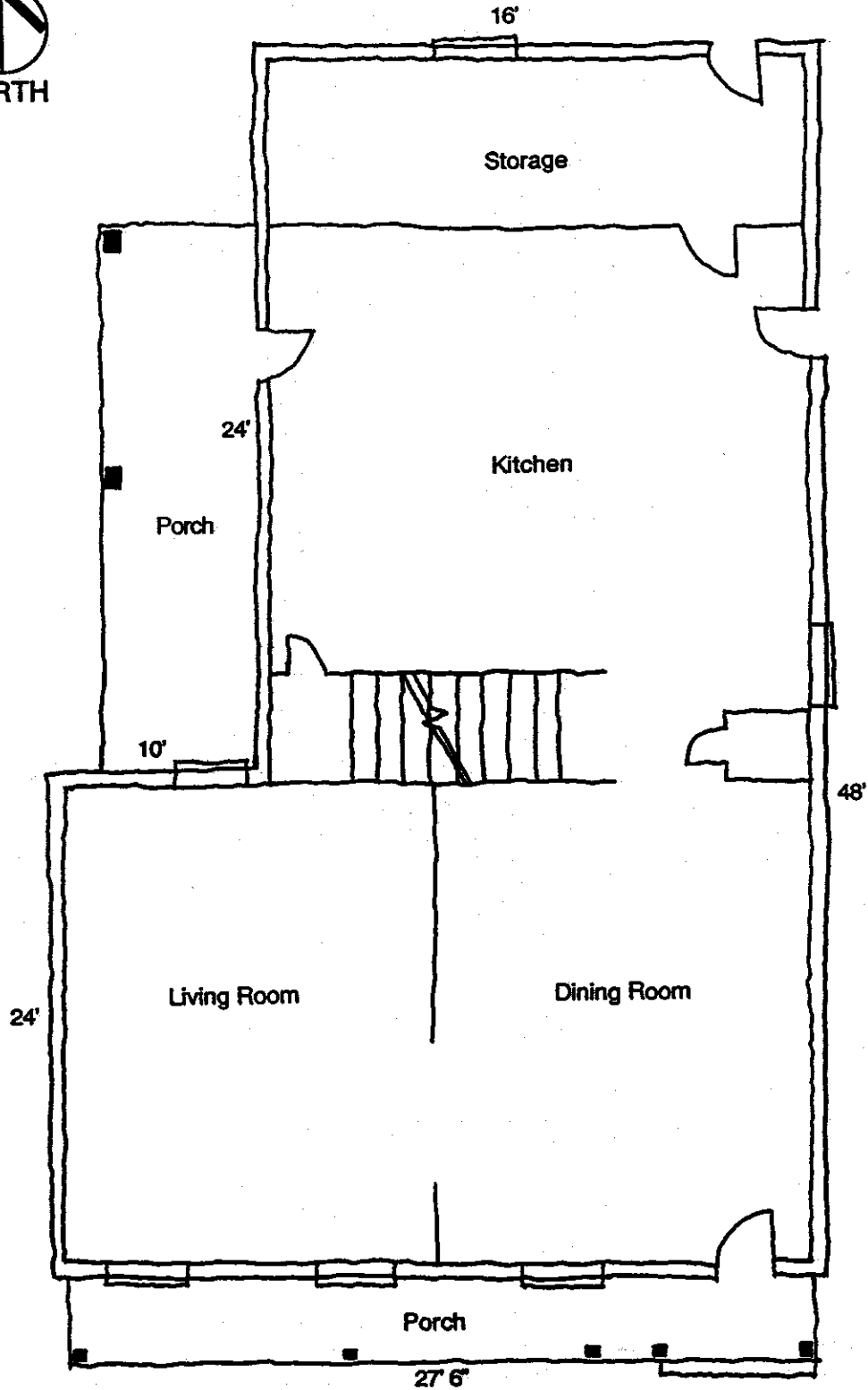
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as a mitigative measure for the treatment of historic properties that were identified and evaluated in a series of studies and that would be affected by the proposed Lock Haven flood protection project. The Abraham Maurer House is slated for removal to accomodate an induced flooding zone. The house will be marketed for sale in an attempt to have it removed from the property. If the house cannot be sold, it will be marketed for architectural salvage. The last recourse for the house is demolition. Documentation was prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, by the Historic Preservation Group of Kise Franks & Straw, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: M. Todd Cleveland, project manager; Susan C. Nabors, historian; Martin B. Abbot, historian; and Jill Cremer, graphics. Robert Tucher provided the documentary photographs.



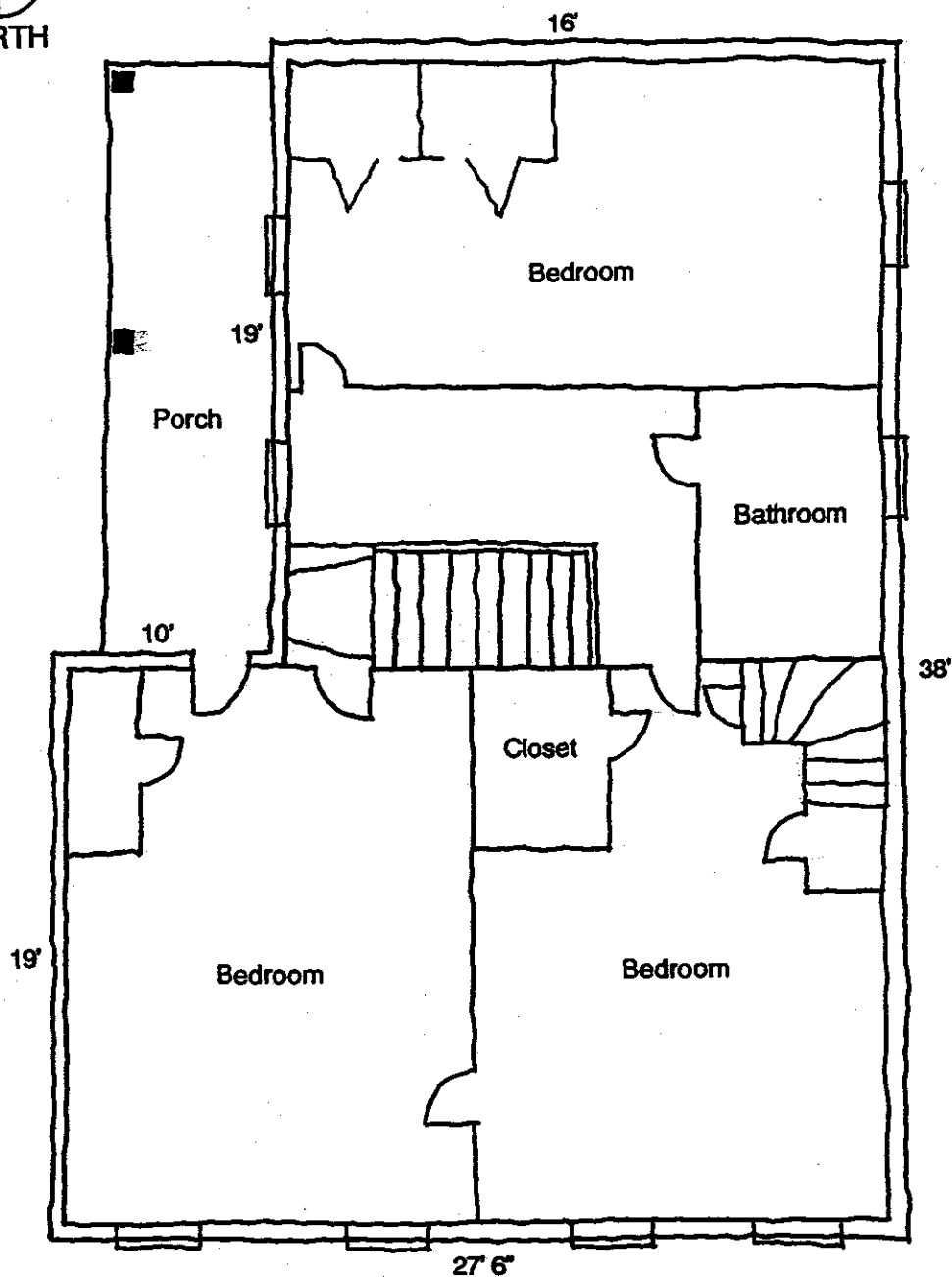
Site Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

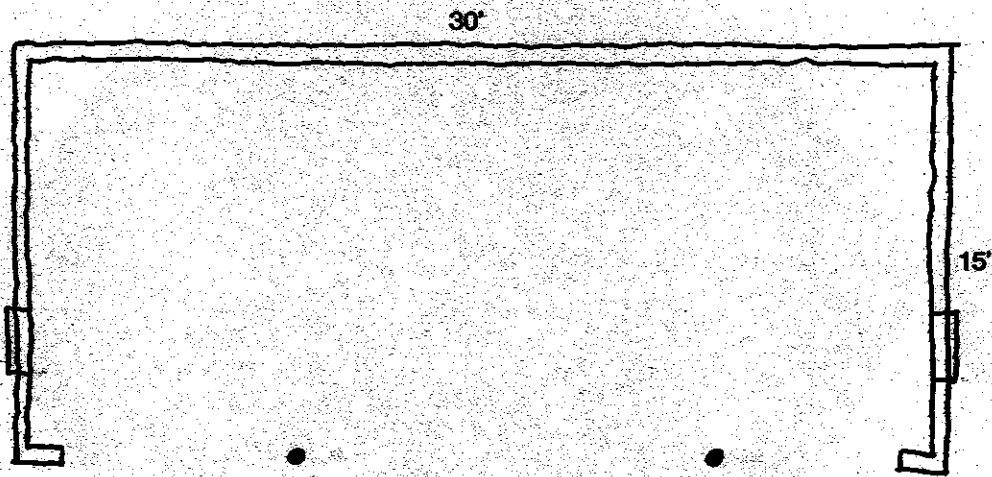
Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer

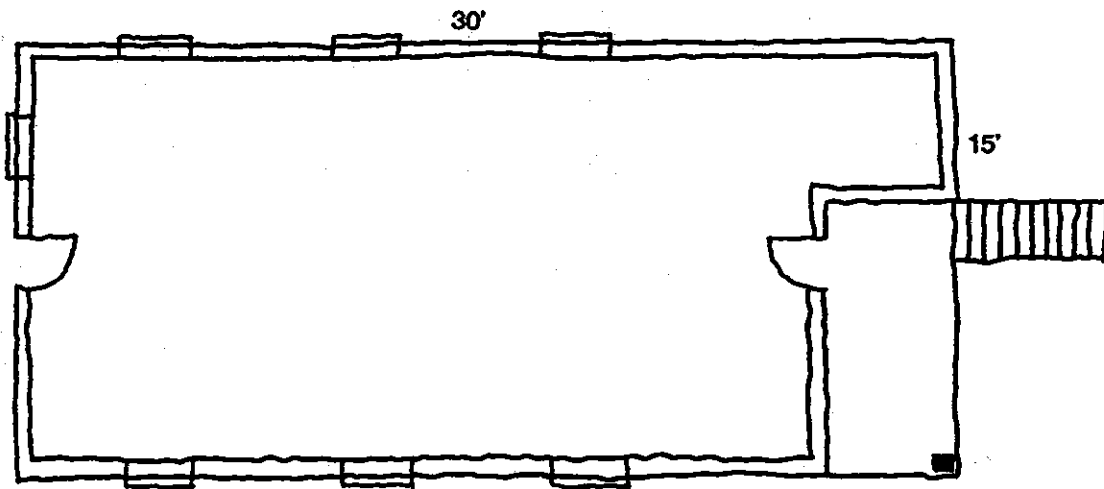
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Garage
First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer

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Garage
Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer